

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NOV 12 2013

1075

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN), HOUSE

Other names/site number: R. G. RENKEN ESTATE

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 401 COATES STREET

City or town: PARKERSBURG State: IA County: BUTLER

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A X B X C D

<u>Rory Y Bennett DSAPP</u>	<u>11/14/2013</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

Name of Property

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

For Edson H. Ball
Signature of the Keeper

1.15.14
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE
Name of Property

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC – SINGLE DWELLING

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC – SINGLE DWELLING
DOMESTIC – SECONDARY STRUCTURE

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE
Name of Property

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN - ITALIANATE

LATE VICTORIAN - QUEEN ANNE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: STONE AND BRICK

Walls: BRICK

Roof: ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Renken House, located in the small farming community of Parkersburg, Butler County, Iowa, is an 1883, brick, Victorian Italianate style house with influences of the emerging Queen Anne style. Geographically, the house is sited on a prominent corner-lot location at the junction of Coates and Fifth Street in what currently is the periphery of the existing northwest residential area in Parkersburg, in North Central Iowa. The U.S. highways of 14 and 57 intersect one block to the west of the Renken House. It has been a well-known landmark in the area since its construction (see Figures 4 and 7).

Located on the southeast and southwest corners, two substantial polygonal bays stand the full height of the Renken House. A wrap-around porch is attached at the first-story level on two sides of the building. The house, approximately 32 feet by 32 feet, is situated on land measuring 124 feet running east to west, by 88 feet deep. The land has a downward slope towards the north, with the difference in elevation measuring approximately 3.0 feet. A sidewalk parallels the south and west of the Renken House. The property has a small front yard with mature oak and maple trees to the south, outside the sidewalk. Flower gardens occupy a large part of the lawn area surrounding the house. The north, south, and west sides of the property are bounded by residential single-family homes. There is one commercial building in the same block, situated to the east of the house running parallel to Coates Street. An unpaved alley lies between, separating the commercial property from the nominated property. A non-contributing, stick-built garage, constructed in 1979, stands 15 feet from the northwest corner of the Renken

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

House. This building supports a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles that match the roof of the house (see Figure 3 and Photos 6, 20 and 21).

The Renken House retains a very good amount of historic integrity. Most changes made to the exterior of the house in the 1940s, were modest and largely unobtrusive. Interior changes occurred mostly in non-public areas, and overall the house is in very good condition for its age. The Renken House is currently being used as a single-family dwelling.

The Renken House possesses the high artistic values and highest quality building practices of well-known, regional architect, F. M. Ellis. This architect held a leading position in his field, and the Renken House is a fine example of his earlier work.

Due to the very recent acquisition of photos showing the historic physical appearance of the Renken House in detail, an historic restoration can now commence on the porches. Plans for the north porch include a restoration that matches the current, Queen Anne influenced design of the front porch (see Figures 7 and 8).

Narrative Description

The Renken House is located in the Howell, Campbell and Sargeant's Addition, as platted in 1868. It was constructed two blocks west of the north-south running Main Street in Parkersburg, Iowa, with the Illinois Central Railroad being located a little over a block to the north. The original Main Street ran east-west in direction, parallel to the railroad (see Figure 4).

The Renken House is constructed of soft-fired brick laid in a "running bond" pattern. The exterior walls of the house are two-brick-thick on the exterior, with stud-framing on the interior wall of the brick. A common lath and plaster finish covers the stud-framing in the interior of the house. The overall layout of the building is approximately 32 feet by 32 feet square with two polygonal bays that stand the full height of the building. These bays are located on the front, southeast corner and the west, southwest corner of the building. The house has not been repointed except for random areas in need of attention.

The foundation of the house is constructed of a 3-foot-tall limestone base topped with brick walls. The basement consists of one, large, open room under the north half of the house, a smaller room that is located under the front, southeast quarter of the house, and a crawlspace that is situated under the southwest quarter of the house. There is a 5-inch-wide, concrete covered, extruded-brick beltline that encircles the perimeter of the house dividing the foundation from the exposed brick above it. Exposed foundation brick located beneath this beltline are coated with concrete.

The front façade of the house is predominantly Italianate in design, complete with tall symmetrical windows set in semicircular or segmented arched surrounds. Double-entry doors, topped with a large stained-glass transom that reach eleven-feet in height, serve as the primary entrance to the house. A 4-inch-thick, 10-inch-deep, wooden threshold is integrated into the beltline at the base of each of the three original doorways into the house. The polygonal bays each have a half-dozen, 3 foot by 7.5 foot symmetrical windows set in semicircular or segmented arched surrounds, with three windows per story. Each of the 32 windows throughout the building are consistently the same, with one-over-one construction and are original to the house (see Picture 2 and Figure 7). With the exception of two, the windows on the first level start 20 inches above the five-inch-wide beltline that encircles the perimeter of the house. Two of these windows, located on the first level, northwest corner of the house, have been shortened to

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

accommodate an "updated" kitchen that was added in the 1960s (see Figure 9). Previous to 1917, a 22-inch by 30-inch window, located in the east side of the house, mid second-story, was added to create additional light in an original closet that had been used early-on as a toilet. Sometime during the 1930s, on the first level of the house, directly below this small window, the Renken family added an additional, east-facing entry door that allowed access into the kitchen through the long pantry area (see Photo 3). According to Mildred Petersen and Grace Ibling, teachers that roomed with R. G. and Wubke Renken during the 1930s, this east-entry was located "just around the corner from the front central hallway of the house, and allowed for removal of outerwear in an area separate from that of the Renken family. That way, boarders didn't have to use the front entry to the house." This door is currently unused.

Beginning at the west end of the front façade, a very distinguishable wrap-around porch entirely surrounds the first story of the south side and all but six feet of the east side of the house. When the Renken House was built, the detailing of the original porch was based more on Italianate precedents rather than the spindle-work treatment of the current Queen Anne style.

As evidenced by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps dated January 1896, and March 1902, the current front porch is not original to the building. According to the *Parkersburg Eclipse* newspaper in June of 1901, "Mrs. R. G. Renken and two children left Tuesday morning for Flannigan, Illinois, for an indefinite visit with relatives." There was also a second short article in the local column stating that, "R.G. Renken is roofing his house." It may have been during this time period that the second porch was being built (see Figures 5 and 6). With a depth of eight feet, the porch added a large amount of grandeur to the house (see Figures 7 and 8).

Sometime after 1943, with the Cramer-ownership of the house, most of the decorative gingerbread trim original to the Queen Anne style front porch was removed (see Figures 7 and 8). During this same time period, the support posts were each cut off just above the base and an enclosed, clapboard-sided "railing" was installed. Originally, this porch roof was adorned by two gables. One gable was located over the front entrance to the house; the other was located about midway through the east side of the porch. The east gable was removed by the Cramer family during the same time period that most of the changes were done to the front porch.

The enclosed, clapboard railing was removed and the posts and porch floor were restored to original form with in-kind materials (less the trim), in 1988. Eleven full posts support the porch with two engaged posts at the front southwest, and back, northeast corners of the porch. The post shafts are of turned design, while the capital and base of the posts are square-cut. A concrete sidewalk and step currently lead up to the front porch.

The east gable was restored in 1994, when the house was re-roofed. A wide set of steps was added to the east side of the porch at this time to aid in easier access to the porch from the backside of the house (see Photo 3). The porch overhang has a deep soffit ornamented with bed mould, fascia, and crown moldings. Single, fancy, elongated brackets adorn the square capital of the posts to the full height, just under the soffit. (All original spandrels and balustrades were removed by the Cramer family in the 1960s). The porch floor is made of wooden tongue and groove flooring with a wide face board. The ceiling of the porch is constructed of narrow tongue and groove beaded board. The underskirts of the porch are currently constructed of 1-inch by 4-inch frame boards with a lattice insert.

In February 2013, Amy Buckley, a great granddaughter of R. G. and Wubke Renken, emailed several photos of the Renken House showing its historic physical appearance (see

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

Figures 7, 8 and 9). On the back (north) of the house above the two entry doors, there was a deep, cantilevered overhang supported by four large brackets. It is in deep contrast to the front, Queen Anne style porch, as it is much more Italianate in design (see Figure 9). This original overhang was removed by the Cramer family during the 1960s and replaced with the current enclosed model (see Photos 4 and 5). The original, west-side, back entrance that once led into the "mudroom" was covered over on the interior and made into a bookcase on the exterior side, inside the present back porch. In actuality, it is missing only the interior trim as the doorway itself still exists in its original form. The east-side, back entrance is intact and currently being used.

The body of the Renken House exhibits the low-pitched roof and overhanging eaves with large decorative brackets indicative of a building whose influence is predominantly Italianate. All eaves and brackets are original to the house. The roof building itself is truncated and hipped in design and retains its original built-in gutters. Two of the four original chimneys were reduced to just below the roofline in the 1940s, both on the west side of the house. These chimneys are located just north of the west bay, and the other, almost to the northwest corner. The remaining two original chimneys, one on the east, and one on the north side of the house, stand at full height. The house was originally roofed with wooden shingles. Currently, a very heavy-grade asphalt shingle is in use. The original, decorative metal roof-ridge is also still in use, and helps to maintain the character of the building. There is an ornate cast iron cresting surrounding the flat roof at the very top of the house. The original cresting was removed in the 1940s. The current cresting was taken from another 1880s Italianate house and installed on the Renken House roof in 2007 (see Photo 1).

As you enter the first floor from the south entrance (see Figure 1), a central hallway extends halfway through the house from south to north. A staircase is located on the right-hand side of this entryway and elevates to the north. To the west of the central hallway are sliding pocket doors that enter into the southwest parlor. A substantial west bay accents this room (see Photo 8).

To the east of the central hallway is another set of pocket doors that lead into the southeast parlor. This room is accented by another substantial bay situated on the south (front) of the house. It is likely that this room was used as a more-formal area, as a working fireplace dominates the east wall. Due to damage from fire, the original fireplace mantle was replaced in 1981 with a mantle of Eastlake design. Although this was a cosmetic change to the Renken House interior, it did not change the structural integrity of the house (see Photo 7). Deeply inset panels rising from the floor to beneath each window sill accent both parlors. Wide, decorative mouldings and nine-inch baseboards with decorative cap-mould are common to the first floor of the house with the exception of the kitchen, pantry, and original mudroom where baseboards are six inches tall with a simple, routed edge. All original flooring in the house is wide tongue and groove pine. According to Dr. Harry Renken, grandson of R. G. and Wubke Renken, the floors in the two parlors were covered with early "wall-to-wall" carpeting.

Heading north out of the central hallway is the room that historically was, and still is, being used as a kitchen area. Originally, the north half of the first floor was divided into three rooms and a pantry. The northwest room was a "mudroom" with an outside entry door from the north. A second doorway in the interior, east wall of the mudroom entered into the middle room, which was the original kitchen. The northeast room, currently being used as a sitting-room, was

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

historically a dining room (see Photo 11). In between the dining room and the southeast parlor, was a pantry. Sometime during the 1940s, the Cramer family turned the southern third of the mudroom into a half-bath. The wall between the northern two-thirds of the original mudroom and the original kitchen was then opened up to make the kitchen larger (see Figure 1 and Photo 10). Sometime during the 1960s, cupboards and countertop were installed in the kitchen and are still in use. Tile currently covers the floor area.

The doors in the Renken House are of stile and rail construction. All but four doors were constructed with four raised-panel insets. The two north-entry doors were constructed with two long panes of glass divided by a center mullion in the upper half of the door and are topped with a transom. The doors leading from the kitchen into the front hallway and into the southwest parlor have a single, large pane of glass in the upper half of the door.

Original to the building, an Eastlake, Anglo-Japanese motif of birds, flowers and butterflies adorns the brass knobs and escutcheons of the doors and window locks in the lower level of the house. The window locks upstairs also have this feature. All hinges used in the house are of a plain variety. Another feature of the house is tall ceilings. The ceilings rise to an elevation of eleven feet on the first level of the Renken House, with ceilings on the second story rising to ten feet in height.

On the second level of the home (see Figure 2), a long central hallway runs the depth of the entire house north to south, dividing the second floor. Baseboards and mouldings here mimic that of the first floor central hallway. Doorknobs on the second level of the home are of black porcelain with ornate brass escutcheons. The original floor plan for the second story of the Renken House consisted of four bedrooms, one on each corner of the house. Each bedroom has a built-in closet. The southeast and southwest bedrooms are accented with substantial bays (see Photo 9). The baseboards in the bedrooms and closets mimic that of the downstairs kitchen, mudroom and pantry. The window and door trim, with the exception of the upper hallway and full-bath is very simple.

Sometime during the Cramer ownership of the Renken House, a small, full-bath was installed at the top of the stairway on the north end of the central hallway (see Figure 2). This small bath was removed in 1994, and the hallway was restored to original with in-kind materials (see Photo 12). That same year, the original northeast bedroom was turned into a full-bath, but maintains its structural integrity. The original windows remain intact and the original doorway was reinstalled with the restoration of the north end of the upstairs hallway. The interior closet walls remain original, but the door frame was widened to a double doorway to accommodate a washer and dryer. The original closet door has been retained. Tall tongue and groove beaded board and a more-ornate, c. 1905, woodwork was added for character (see photos 14, 15 and 16).

When constructed, the finish on the woodwork of the Renken House was painted. A very dark burlled or birds-eye finish has been found on the inside of one closet door panel. The woodwork remains painted. The light fixtures in the house are non-original, but sympathetic, to the time period. Wiring, plumbing fixtures, and some plumbing have been modernized.

Most changes made to the exterior of the house made in the 1940s were modest and largely unobtrusive. Interior changes occurred mostly in non-public areas, and overall the house is in very good condition for its age. Although the property has lost some noteworthy original fabric, it retains sufficient integrity as an excellent example of late nineteenth century architecture.

The Renken House maintains a high degree of all seven aspects of integrity: location, design,

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The Renken House is located in an area within one and a half blocks of both the Main Street and the Illinois Central Railroad in Parkersburg. Situated three blocks south of the Beaver Creek, "one of the best points for trade and business in Butler County," the Renken House was built within easy walking distance of the Renkens' business, Renken and Tammen, located on Main Street in Parkersburg.

The setting for the Renken House retains most of its original integrity, with the nearby residential and commercial business placement remaining unchanged since its construction in 1884. The largest change in setting comes from the addition of the stick-built garage added to the property in 1979.

Integrity of design, materials and workmanship is especially important to the Criterion C nomination. The overall form of the house has been maintained and largely unchanged by additions or alterations. The original architectural materials and detailing remain or were replaced in-kind where missing, with the exception of the porches, which have not yet been restored. The brick has been repointed in small areas in need of repair. A lime-based mortar in keeping with the original was used for this repair. The interior retains a very large part of its original configuration and architectural detailing, with the exception of the kitchen/bath area on the first floor, and the north end of the upper hallway that was restored to original in 1994, after the removal of a small non-original bathroom. Electrical wiring and some plumbing and plumbing fixtures have been modernized.

The integrity of the workmanship is evident throughout the Renken House. The masonry work of the original concrete workers and brick masons remains visible. The building's structural system remains unaltered and the windows remain original to the building. With the exception of the porches, the exterior workmanship of the Renken House maintains a high degree of workmanship. Although a partial wall has been opened up in the kitchen, a doorway added for the downstairs bathroom, and a doorway widened in the upstairs bath to accommodate a laundry, the interior workmanship of the Renken House also maintains a high degree of integrity.

The Renken House continues to evoke an historic sense of an important Victorian residence even today. The prominent corner location midway between a major state highway and the Main Street, as well as its location near the train station and river all tell the story of the prominence of the Renken family and their residence. The integrity of the physical location of the house, illustrated by the yard and historic vegetation, all contribute to the house's ability to maintain integrity of feeling and association to that time period. It is an easy step back into time when entering the Renken House.

Integrity of association of the Renken House is directly connected to an early Parkersburg, Iowa businessman, R. G. Renken. From 1875- 1920, R. G. Renken was partially responsible for the early development and infrastructure of Parkersburg, through financial avenues that allowed the citizens and businesses of Parkersburg to progress. He contributed through his service in city government as well as monetary contributions that helped allow the city to expand.

As architect of the Renken House, integrity of association is also evident through the connection of F. M. Ellis, a leading architect in his profession. With the recent acquisition of photos showing the historic physical appearance of the Renken House, future plans include the Restoration of both the front and back porches in the Queen Anne style (see figures 7 and 8).

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

Name of Property

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE
Name of Property

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMICS

Period of Significance

1884-1937 (Criterion B)

1884 (Criterion C)

Significant Dates

1884

1901

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

R. G. RENKEN

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

ELLIS, FRANK M.

BOSTON, WILLIAM C.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Renken House is locally significant under criterion B because of its direct association to an early Parkersburg, Iowa businessman, R. G. Renken.

R. G. Renken made significant contributions within the Community of Parkersburg. He was partially responsible for the early development and infrastructure of Parkersburg, through

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

financial avenues that allowed the citizens and businesses of Parkersburg to progress. He also contributed through his service in city government.

R.G. Renken was the owner and operator of Renken and Tammen, one the largest general merchandise and clothing establishments in the Parkersburg, Butler County, Iowa. This business was a mainstay in Parkersburg from 1875-1920.

Renken was heavily immersed in the finances of the community for over 25 years. From 1917-1924, he was a sitting director of the Beaver Valley Bank. Between 1899-1926, he also held the positions of director, vice-president and in 1909, became the president of the State Exchange Bank located in Parkersburg. He worked closely with business colleague C. C. Wolf, cashier at the State Exchange Bank, managing the finances of the community. C.C. Wolf's home was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. According to the local newspaper, R. G. Renken also held the position of treasurer of the school board.

The local newspaper also proclaims that R. G. Renken held the position of town recorder and contributed heavily to the Congregational Church, both monetarily and by servitude in "every major office within its power to grant."

R. G. Renken contributed monetarily to the construction of the first electric power plant, Parkersburg Electric Light & Power Company in 1898, at the cost of ten thousand dollars. R. G. Renken held a position as one of the power plant's directors.

Renken hired the regionally well-known and highly-sought, Netcott builder/contractors to design and build his third business building on the Parkersburg Main Street in 1894. This is the same firm responsible for the design and building of the Netcott-Pfeiffer House also located in Parkersburg, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2007 and the C. C. Wolf Mansion, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. These three buildings still stand today.

The Renken House continues to evoke an historic sense of an important Victorian residence even today. The prominent corner location midway between a major state highway and the Main Street, as well as its location near the train station and river all tell the story of the prominence of the Renken family and their residence. Designed by F. M. Ellis, a leading architect in his profession, the Renken House is a fine example of his earlier design capabilities, fitting for a "man of fine business sagacity and rectitude."

The Renken House, is locally significant under National Register Criterion C as a well preserved example of Late Victorian, Italianate-influenced residential architecture in Parkersburg, Iowa, and one of only two extant 19th century brick houses in the community. The other aforementioned property is the C. C. Wolf Mansion built in 1895, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, situated one block south of the nominated property.

The Renken House is also significant under Criterion C as an example of the work of well-known, regional architect, F. M. Ellis.

The Renken House, completed in 1884, has no comparable example of this combination of architectural design in the area. The wrap-around, Queen Anne-style porch, which replaced the original, Italianate design around 1901, was an attempt to keep up with the more-modern style of architecture coming into vogue at that time. The same argument could be made for the changes made to the current Queen Anne style, which was stripped of the more-ornate gingerbread during the 1940s, although it had been mentioned by earlier owners that, "it was just too much to paint."

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

An archaeological investigation was not a part of this nomination. Additional research may identify archaeological sites that could contribute to the significance of the property.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

By the end of 1865, a train depot (non-extant), was constructed in Parkersburg by the Illinois Central Railroad. Parkersburg became an incorporated town in the spring of 1875. By the 1880s, the town was a rapidly-growing boon for almost any business that wanted to associate themselves with it. As quoted in History of Butler County, Volume I, 1883, "One of the most important thoroughfares in the country, a very desirable shipping facility and one of the most important grain markets in northern Iowa." Parkersburg had an excellent economy. The Illinois Central Railroad located on the north end of Parkersburg was part of the reason for the booming economy, as well as the Beaver Creek located just north of the railroad. By 1883, according to railroad schedules published in the *Parkersburg Eclipse* newspaper, the Illinois Central Railroad passenger/freight trains would stop as many as ten times a day in Parkersburg. According to Butler County history books and local newspaper articles between 1883 and 1914, Parkersburg was "one of the best points for trade and business in Butler County... at the confluence of the North and South forks of the Beaver River, which furnishes permanent water power. No locality presents a more favorable opportunity for the employment of capital in manufacturing enterprises. Sitting on a division of the Illinois Central Railroad, one of the most important thoroughfares in the country, the town is possessed of the most desirable shipping facilities."

The first electric power was furnished by the Parkersburg Electric Light & Power Company, composed of local citizens who built the plant in 1898, at the cost of ten thousand dollars. R. G. Renken contributed monetarily to the building of that company, and held a position as one of its directors.

The Renken House is significant in relation to local history as it was the residence of an early Parkersburg, Iowa, businessman, R. G. Renken. From 1875 to 1920, R. G. Renken owned and operated one of the largest general merchandise stores in the area. After fire destroyed both the first and second Renken commercial buildings, a third Renken business building was designed and built by the regionally well-known, highly-sought, Netcott builder/contractors, the same firm responsible for the design and building of the Netcott-Pfeiffer House also located in Parkersburg, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2007. For many years R. G. Renken was partially responsible for the early development and infrastructure of Parkersburg, through financial avenues that allowed the citizens and businesses of Parkersburg to progress. He contributed through his service in city government by serving on several boards, as well as his role as a director, vice-president and finally president of the Parkersburg Exchange Bank from 1899 to 1926, while at the same time serving as a director of the Beaver Valley Bank, also in Parkersburg, from 1917 to 1924.

Local documentation is lacking during the years 1894-1901 and 1909-1917 when the Renkens lived in Parkersburg. It is highly likely, considering the Renken work ethic, that R. G. Renken contributed to the community much more than we are able to substantiate.

The Renken House was designed by F. M. Ellis, a leading architect in his profession, and is a fine example of his earlier design capabilities.

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

F. M. Ellis was the architect of the Love-Larson Opera House, built in 1888, in Fremont, Nebraska, listed as a National Register property in 1974. He was also the architect of the First Presbyterian Church of Marion in Marion, Iowa, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

There is an undeniable connection between the Renken, Pfeiffer and Netcott families, the C.C. Wolf Mansion and the Netcott-Pfeiffer House. These people, including C. C. Wolf, all owned property designed and built by the Netcott Architectural Firm, were all local Parkersburg businessmen, and all worked at building Parkersburg into a fast-growing, economically rich, town in the late nineteenth century.

R. G. RENKEN (b. 1850 – d. 1937)

Renke Gerdes Renken Jr. was born in Lehr, Germany on February 18, 1850, to Renke Gerdes Renckens (later changed) and Ettje Folkerts. According to Baltimore Passenger Lists 1820-1948 and 1954-1957, he immigrated to the United States with brother Eno Renken and Folkerts relatives aboard the passenger ship, "Ohio." Departing from Bremen, Germany, they arrived in Baltimore, Maryland, in April of 1870. Soon after arriving in the United States, they settled in Minonk, Woodford Co., Illinois, where there were other Folkerts family members. A few months later, in 1871, R. G. Renken arrived in Parkersburg, Iowa, with his brother, Eno Renken, where he engaged in the sale of goods for Godfrey Mahanke, an early hardware and livery merchant, for several years. Eno Renken engaged in the drug business there. R. G. Renken took on a partner, his brother-in-law, Fritz Tammen, and they founded the firm of Renken and Tammen (see Figure 4), a general merchandise and clothing establishment built in 1875. The building was of wooden frame located on Main Street in Parkersburg. In 1880, census records show that R. G. Renken roomed at a local boarding house run by Kate Keintz in Parkersburg. According to his obituary, published June 24, 1937, in the *Parkersburg Eclipse* newspaper, R. G. Renken married Wubke Francen of Minonk, Illinois, daughter of J. L. Francen and Julia Tammen, in 1882. U.S. Indexed County Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918, show R.G. Renken and the Francen and Tammen families owning farmland in adjoining sections of Minonk, Woodford Co., Illinois. It is unclear what exactly brought R. G. Renken to Parkersburg, Iowa, although there were other Renken family members located in the Parkersburg, Iowa, area at that time.

After a fire destroyed their establishment in early 1882, Renken and Tammen in the fall of 1882, had a brick, two-story store constructed on Main Street at the cost of about \$4,500.00. According to History of Butler County Iowa, Vol. I, "...the members of the firm erected one of the leading brick business houses on Main Street and both were men of fine business sagacity and rectitude."

Following is a short, local news article taken from the July 12, 1883, edition of the *Parkersburg Eclipse* newspaper referring to the Renken House:

"R. G. Renken has purchased material for the new two-story brick residential building to be erected on the south front of the old Charnock lot. Size of building, 30 by 30 on the ground and so improvements of our town go on."

On July 31, 1883, after taking delivery of 8,000 brick shipped in from Dubuque, Iowa, R. G. Renken and his business partner filed a complaint with the president of the Illinois Central Railroad Company as follows:

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

“Dear Sir – We had one car load of brick shipped to us from Dubuque, at a distance of 118 miles; it contained 8,000 brick, 30,750 pounds, and had to pay \$38.45, which we think is taking the advantage of the public by charging such enormous prices. We think we ought to be entitled to \$6.45 as overcharge, from what parties paid last winter. Will you be kind enough to investigate this matter, if the railroad company can make such charges.”

The partners evidently had paid less the previous year for the brick used in their commercial building. The decision of the railroad commissioners was to deny the complaint, finding the rates to be, “reasonable and lower than other railways.” Surrounding area newspapers during that time period mention a shortage of brick, and may have been the reason that R. G. Renken shipped brick into Parkersburg by rail from Dubuque. It wasn’t until 1891, that George Netcott opened the Netcott Brick and Tile Works in Grundy Center, Iowa, sixteen miles to the south. The Netcott-Pfeiffer House, George Netcott’s home in Parkersburg, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.

On September 27, 1883, the following short, local news article was published in the *Parkersburg Eclipse* newspaper referring to the Renken House:

“W. C. Boston laid the last brick on R. G. Renken’s new residence yesterday. He has done a nice job.”

The Renken House again made the news in the December 27, 1883, issue of the *Parkersburg Eclipse* newspaper and the January 3, 1884, issue of the *Allison Tribune* newspaper with the following:

“R. G. Renken and wife now occupy their handsome brick residence. It is the costliest home in town and we wish them many years of life to enjoy it. The trimmings will be completed when better weather will accomodate and the cost will foot up to more than \$4,000.00. It is a valuable addition to the appearance of our town.”

After a second fire in 1893 claimed the brick Renken and Tammen business building on Main Street, they constructed a third building, also brick, in 1894.

As evidenced by the local *Parkersburg Eclipse* newspaper, the Netcott family, who owned, designed and built the Netcott-Pfeiffer House in Parkersburg, was responsible for the design and construction of eight buildings on the north-south running Main Street in Parkersburg, Iowa, including the Renken and Tammen Dry Goods building in 1894. Although the original façade lies beneath a “modernized” store front, the building remains standing on Main Street in Parkersburg today. Renken and Tammen remained a partnership until late 1894, when Fritz Tammen left the firm to pursue other ventures. Mr. Tammen became a landlord of several properties, and in 1907, a director of the Beaver Valley Bank in Parkersburg. He remained a director until becoming vice-president in 1917. R. G. Renken continued to operate his general merchandise store until around 1920. In addition to operating his merchandise business, in 1899, he acquired a position as one of the directors of the State Exchange Bank in Parkersburg. In November 1906, R. G. Renken acquired the status of vice-president and in 1909, assumed the position of president of the State Exchange Bank. R. G. Renken held this position from 1909, until May 1926, when the bank failed. Except for the last two of those years, a business colleague, C. C. Wolf, whose home was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, held the position of cashier the entire time R. G. Renken was associated with the State Exchange Bank in Parkersburg. In 1917, when R. G. Renken’s old business partner Fritz Tammen became vice-president of the Beaver Valley Bank in Parkersburg, R. G. Renken

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

became a sitting director on the board of the Beaver Valley Bank while holding the position of president at the opposing bank, the State Exchange Bank. R. G. Renken held the position at the Beaver Valley Bank until 1924. The State Exchange Bank building still stands on Parkersburg's Main Street. After the failure of the State Exchange Bank in 1926, R. G. Renken retired at 76 years of age.

R. G. Renken passed away June 21, 1937, in Parkersburg at the age of 87 years. He was a member of the Congregational Church and according to his obituary, published in the *Parkersburg Eclipse* newspaper, "All thru its history a consistent and trustworthy and honored member. Perhaps few members had the welfare of this church at heart thru all its history more than did this man, and few gave more liberally to its support of his material means and of his time and strength. He held every major office within its power to grant in the church and served like a Christian should."

R. G. Renken and his wife, Wubke Francen Renken, raised four children in Parkersburg, Iowa, and according to his obituary, had been associated with the town for 67 years. In 1883, R. G. Renken served as town recorder and treasurer of the school board until 1894. He was interred at Oak Hill Cemetery in Parkersburg, Iowa.

According to a "Petition for Appointment of Foreign Guardian" in the property abstract, Wubke Renken continued to live in the Renken House until 1942, when she was found to be "incompetent." She then left Parkersburg and moved to Cook County, Illinois, to reside with family. Under a court order, The Renken House and its contents were sold October 26, 1942, to Charles Cramer and wife for the sum of \$2,000.00. A public auction held on November 14, 1942, relieved the Cramer family of the contents of the house that had belonged to the Renken family. A large taxidermy case with a red fox, as well as 49 mounted birds and an original pier mirror that were sold at the public auction in 1942 have been returned to the Renken House. R. G. Renken's hobby was taxidermy.

F. M. (FRANCIS M., FRANK M.) ELLIS, Architect (b. 1837 – d. 1899)

After the initial Iowa Site Inventory paperwork on the Renken House was submitted in 1991 under the name of "*R. G. Renken Estate*," several years passed before the true architect was discovered to be F. M. Ellis of Marshalltown, Iowa. Initially, Edwin Blomquist of Lake Forest, Illinois, a grandson of R. G. Renken, related that a man by the name of "Ellis" had built the Renken House, and had thought the architect's first name started with the initial, "J." In 1994, Dr. Harry Renken, another grandson of R. G. Renken, stated positively in a phone conversation that, "Frank Ellis of Marshalltown, Iowa, designed the house." Dr. Renken related that his own father, R. G. Renken's son, Harry, had told him, "Frank Ellis came almost daily to the construction site by horse and buggy from quite a distance, and that he was staying in Grundy Center at the time." He also recalled being told by his father that, "Workers were only allowed to call him "Mr. Ellis," and, "the Renken family was quite impressed with the fact that he was at the construction site so often."

According to an 1883, issue of the *Grundy County Republican* newspaper, architect, F. M. Ellis of Marshalltown was "visiting" in Grundy Center and also working with the Grundy Center School Board in the fall of that year on plans for a new eight-room schoolhouse to be built there.

F. M. Ellis was born in Cortland County, New York, July 18, 1837. In 1862, Mr. Ellis was united in marriage to Martha J. Davis from New York. The couple then made their home in

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

Pennsylvania. As a young man he had learned the trade of architect and builder. The 1870, Beaver Falls Borough, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, census lists Francis M. Ellis as a "house carpenter." Ten years later, the Marshalltown, Marshall County, Iowa, census lists Francis M. Ellis as an "architect." If F. M. Ellis had any formal training in this field, it is unclear. He lived in Pennsylvania for about eleven years, after which he moved to Chicago where he resided and worked for about 5 years. In The History of Marshall County, Iowa, 1878 edition, F. M. Ellis is noted as "architect and superintendent of many fine buildings in Chicago."

After leaving Chicago, F. M. Ellis was living in Marshalltown, Iowa, in 1876. The *Marshall Statesman* newspaper published almost weekly reports of the activities of "Architect Ellis." By September 1, 1877, F. M. Ellis had moved into a second office in Marshalltown, above the City Bank Block. An early advertisement from the October 5, 1877, issue of the *Marshall Statesman* newspaper is as follows:

"F. M. Ellis, Architect, and designer of public and private buildings. Churches and School Buildings a Speciality. Orders solicited, estimates given and satisfaction guaranteed. Office in the Bank Block."

The *Marshall Statesman* newspaper, March 9, 1878, edition, reported that F. M. Ellis was receiving orders from all parts of central Iowa. A year later it was reported that he was "up to his eyes" in work. For the year of 1878, the *Marshall Statesman* newspaper published F. M. Ellis to be the architect of the following buildings: mansion of M. W. Bibbens, Esq., at the corner of Grant and Third Streets in Marshalltown, Iowa, for the sum of \$3,000.00; the Monticello High School; an Italianate mansion for C. W. Stone, Esq., in Marshalltown, Iowa, for the sum of \$6,000.00; a church in Badger Hill, Tama County, Iowa, and the new bank building in Marshalltown, Iowa.

For the year 1879, the *Marshall Statesman* newspaper reported F. M. Ellis to be the architect of the following buildings: an addition to the Marshall County Poor House; the Masonic Temple and Opera House in Oskaloosa, Iowa; repairs to the First Presbyterian Church in Boone, Iowa, and the Opera House in Peoria, Illinois. In Galesburg Public Schools, Their History and Work, 1911 edition, a fee of \$100.00 was paid to F. M. Ellis to superintend and design plans for a new addition to the Fourth Ward School building in Galesburg, Illinois. According to The History of Boone County, 1880 edition, the fee paid to F. M. Ellis for his services concerning the First Presbyterian Church in Boone, Iowa, was \$120.00. In 1880, F. M. Ellis was hired as architect for the Baptist Church in Waterloo, Iowa.

By February 1882, F. M. Ellis had hired Hugh Schick to work in his "arts rooms." In April 1882, Ellis had an associate by the name of Lawrence McIvor, a designer of furniture, house trimmings and interiors. Mr. McIvor was touted to be, "one of the most skillful artists in this line in the country." It is highly possible that Mr. Lawrence McIvor designed the trimmings on the Renken House. According to the 1915, edition of The History of Blackhawk County and Its People, Vol. I, F. M. Ellis was hired as architect of the new "South Hall" at the Iowa State Normal School in Cedar Falls, Iowa, in March 1882. His fee was to be 2.5% of the \$35,000.00 cost of the building. In May 1882, F. M. Ellis was designing plans for the new reform school building at Mitchellville, Iowa, and his associate, Mr. McIvor, was painting frescoes at Gifford's Drugstore in Marshalltown, Iowa. By this time, F. M. Ellis had moved into a third office in the C.W.S Block in Marshalltown, Iowa. The *Marshall Statesman* newspaper reported that the

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

rooms throughout the block were "elegant." During this time period in Marshalltown, another architectural firm, The Zerbe Bros., was also advertising its services.

In May 1883, the Marshalltown City Council hired F. M. Ellis as architect of the Masonic Temple to be erected on Main Street in Marshalltown, Iowa. During this same time period, R. G. Renken would have secured F. M. Ellis as architect of his new brick residence to be built in Parkersburg, Iowa. In October 1883, F. M. Ellis won the contract for a new county hospital in McDonald County, Illinois. In November 1883, according to the *Grundy Center Herald* newspaper, F. M. Ellis had been hired by the school board as architect for a new eight-room schoolhouse. He was also hired as architect for the new high school in Marshalltown during this same time. During 1884, F. M. Ellis secured the contract for the Presbyterian Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa; the high school in Brainerd, Minnesota; the Kearney, Nebraska, reform school and the State Insane Asylum in Norfolk, Nebraska.

In 1885, F. M. Ellis became a charter member of the Architectural Association of Iowa. He also became involved in a business partnership named, Ellis & Turner. As well that year, the \$15,000.00 high school in Red Oak, Iowa; a bank and office building for Thos. Yule at the cost of \$10,000.00 in Beatrice, Nebraska; a \$10,000.00 school in Ward, Iowa; a Waukon, Iowa, school building; and the \$20,000.00 home of W. G. Sloan were all built under their designs. Also in 1885, F. M. Ellis opened his Omaha, Nebraska, office where he entered in a competition with fourteen other architects for the design of the Lancaster County Courthouse in Lincoln, Nebraska. F. M. Ellis won the contract for that building. While in Omaha, Nebraska, F. M. Ellis operated under the business name of F. M. Ellis & Co. Architect, John Latenser, Sr. was hired to work at the firm and did so until resigning the company to open his own establishment in Omaha in 1886. F. M. Ellis opened a second F. M. Ellis & Co. office in Council Bluffs, Iowa, that was managed by an associate architect, John H. Kent. Some of the buildings designed by F. M. Ellis during his Omaha years were: the Estate of Henry Whitefield Yates, Sr., an 1889 Eclectic/Richardson Romanesque, \$40,000.00 mansion in Omaha; Hon. H. C. Clark's building in Omaha; a hotel in Waterloo, Iowa, and the Wesleyan University at Barley, Nebraska. Designed in 1891, by F. M. Ellis, were the IOOF Children's Home Administration Building in Lincoln, Nebraska, and the Taylor County Courthouse in Bedford, Iowa, built in 1892.

It is highly likely that there are many more buildings in the Midwest constructed from the architectural plans of F. M. Ellis.

According to the *Marshall Statesman* newspaper, after three years of paralysis and confinement to his bed, Frank M. Ellis passed away on January 10, 1899, in Omaha, Nebraska. He was interred at Riverside Cemetery in Marshalltown, Iowa.

W. C. (William C.) Boston, Builder/Brick Mason (b. 1847)

On September 27, 1883, the following short local news bit was published in the *Parkersburg Eclipse* newspaper concerning the Renken House:

"W. C. Boston laid the last brick on R. G. Renken's new residence yesterday. He has done a nice job."

According to records found on Ancestry.com, including the 1880 Jefferson Township, Butler Co., Iowa Census; the Iowa Births and Christening Index, 1857-1947; the 1900 United States Federal Census; the 1915 Iowa State Census Collection 1836-1925 for Delaware Co., Southfork Township, Hopkinton, Iowa; the 1920 United States Federal Census and the Illinois Deaths and

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

Stillbirths Index, 1916-1947, William C. Boston was born in January 26, 1847, in England, of English parents. He immigrated to the United States with his parents in 1847, and was united in marriage to Jane Irving, daughter of Henry and Isabelle Rome in 1873. Records show the Boston family lived in the Butler County, Iowa, area from 1880 through at least 1884. According to the 1900 United States Federal Census, William C. Boston was living in Southfork Township, Hopkinton, Delaware Co., Iowa at that time. His occupation is listed as "bricklayer." He is listed on a Delaware Co., Iowa, 1915, voter registration form as being "retired."

According to Illinois records, Jane Boston passed away in 1910, in Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois. William C. Boston is then listed as living with his daughter, Jane Eager in Bloom Township, Cook Co., Illinois in 1920. William C. Boston passed away there on March 20, 1920, and was buried in Cook County, Illinois. At least two of William C. Boston's children became brick masons.

The Renken House, as a matter of luck and God's good graces, continues to be a highly recognizable landmark, as well as a very good example of Italianate residential design, after a very close call with the EF5 tornado that wiped out almost half of Parkersburg, Iowa, in May 2008. Although there was substantial damage to some surrounding houses within a block of the Renken House, it remains in good stance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Allison Tribune. 08 Nov. 1883 - 03 Jan. 1884. Reel #1, *Allison Tribune 1881 - 1884*. Allison Public Library Microfilm Collection, Iowa.

Blomquist, Edwin. Telephone Interview. 1985.

Buckley, Amy. "House Photos." Email to the author. Feb. 9, 2013.

Butler County Recorder. *Town Lot Deed Record*. Allison, Iowa: State of Iowa, Butler Co., 1883.

Craig-Ray Abstract Co. *Abstract of Title*. Allison, Iowa. Nov. 10, 1868.

Deebach, Donna. "USGenWeb Project." Butler County Genealogy. *1895 Iowa State Census*. Iowa: Butler County Iowa GenWeb Project, 2003.

"Genealogy, Family Trees & Family History Records." *Ancestry.com*. Ancestry.com, Jan.-Mar. 2009. Web. 2009. <<http://www.ancestry.com>>.

Gerber, Kristine and Jeffrey S. Spencer. *Building for the Ages*. Landmarks, Inc. 2003.

Green. *History of Butler Co, Vol. I*. 1883. (Bound, photocopied edition with no further information available).

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

Grundy County Herald. 05 Sept. 1883 - Nov. 1883. Reel #10, *Grundy County Herald 1981 - 1986*. Kling Memorial Library Microfilm Collection, Iowa.

Hancock, Ellery M. *Past and Present of Allamakee County Vol. I*. S. J. Clarke Publishing Co. Chicago, 1913. 2009.

<<http://books.google.com/books?output=html&id=h34UAAAAYAAJ&dq=the+past+and+present+of+allamakee+county&jtp=346>>.

Hart, Irving H. *History of Butler County Iowa, Vol. I*. S. J. Clarke Publishing Co. Chicago, 1914.

Hartman, John C. *History of Blackhawk County, Iowa and Its People, Vol. I*. S. J. Clark Publishing Company, Chicago. 1915. 08 Mar. 2009.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=51Y0AQAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false>.

Ibeling, Grace. Telephone Interview. 1985.

Larsen, Lawrence Harold and Barbara J. Cottrell. *The Gate City: A History of Omaha*. Pruett Publishing Co. 1982. 19 Mar. 2009.

Marshall Statesman. Sept. 1877 - Dec. 1884. Reel #3, #4, #5 and #6, *Marshall Statesman 1877-1884*. Marshalltown Public Library Microfilm Collection, Iowa.

Parkersburg Eclipse. Sept. - Dec. 1883, Jun. 1937, Jun. 1901 and Nov. 1942. n. pag. Print.

Petersen, Mildred. Personal Interview. 1985.

Renken, Harry J. Telephone Interview. 1990 and 1995.

Sawyer, Andrew J. *Lincoln the Capital City and Lancaster County Nebraska*.

S. J. Clarke Publishing Co. Chicago, Illinois. 1916. 08 Mar. 2009.

<<http://books.google.com/books?id=HS8WAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA54&dq=F.+M.+Ellis&output=html>>.

Shank, Wesley I. *Iowa's Historic Architects*. University of Iowa Press, 1999.

Sloan, Marjory. Personal Interview. 1985.

State of Iowa. *Sixth Annual Report of the Board of Railroad Commissioners for the Year Ending June 30, 1883*. Geo. E. Roberts, State Printer 1883. 2009. 08 Mar. 2009.

<<http://books.google.com/books?pg=PA691&vq=&q=&id=8uUaAAAAYAAJ&output=html>>.

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Ltd. Parkersburg, Butler Co., Iowa (map). Jan. 1896, Mar. 1902.
Scale: 1:50. "Digital Sanborn Maps 1867-1970." Environmental Data Resources, Inc. 2008.

Steele, William Lucas. *Galesburg Public Schools, Their History and Work*. The Board of
Education, 1911. 2009. 18 Mar. 2009.

Union Historical Company. *The History of Boone County*. Birdsall, Williams & Company,
1880. 2009. 06 Mar. 2009.

Union Publishing Company, *History of Butler and Bremer Counties, Iowa*.
Union Publishing Company, 1883. 04 Jan. 2009.

Western Historical Company. *The History of Marshall County, Iowa*. Western Historical
Company, 1878. 23 Feb. 2009.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

9. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately .25 acres

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 517284 | Northing: 4713909 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 5, 6, 7 & 8, Block 7, Howell, Campbell & Sargent's Addition, Parkersburg.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the parcel listed in the verbal description that is historically associated with the Renken House.

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE
Name of Property

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA
County and State

10. Form Prepared By

name/title: Melodie J. McLean - owner
organization: N/A
street & number: 401 Coates Street
city or town: Parkersburg state: IA zip code: 50665
e-mail jerichowaters333@mchsi.com
telephone: 319-243-5214
date: March 18, 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Continuation sheets:

Imbedded Images Pg. 28 – Figure 1, Floor Plan Sketch Map – First Floor, Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen), House

Imbedded Images Pg. 29 – Figure 2, Floor Plan Sketch Map – Second Floor, Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen), House

Imbedded Images Pg. 30 – Figure 3, Site Plan Sketch Map – Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen), House

Imbedded Images Pg. 31 – Figure 4, Plat Map – Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen), House

Imbedded Images Pg. 32 - Figure 5, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1896 – Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen), House

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

Imbedded Images Pg. 33 - Figure 6, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1902 – Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen), House

Imbedded Images Pg. 34 – Figure 7, Historic photo taken “Summer 1917” showing southeast view of Renken House. Photographer unknown. Photo acquired from R. G. Renken’s great granddaughter, Amy Buckley, February, 2013. Photo taken facing northwest.

Imbedded Images Pg. 35 – Figure 8, Historic photo taken around 1920, showing R. G. Renken standing in front of the Renken House (south side). Photographer unknown. Photo acquired from R. G. Renken’s great granddaughter, Amy Buckley, February, 2013. Photo taken facing north.

Imbedded Images Pg. 36 – Figure 9, Historic photo taken around 1917 showing northwest view of the Renken House, including original back-porch overhang. Wubke Renken and son, Harry in foreground. Photographer unknown. Photo acquired from R. G. Renken’s great granddaughter, Amy Buckley, February, 2013. Photo taken facing southeast. (This photo is same view as Photo #5).

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen), House

CD-R #305

City or Vicinity: Parkersburg

County: Butler

State: Iowa

Photographer: Melodie J. McLean

Date Photographed: 2011-2013 Location of original digital files 1-21: At property address.
Location of historic photos, Figures 7, 8 and 9: with Amy Buckley, great granddaughter of R. G. Renken

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

Name of Property

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0001.tif

Southwest corner-view of Renken House taken from corner of Coates and Fifth Street. Photo taken facing northeast.

Date taken: June 24, 2011

Photo 2 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0002.tif

Southeast corner-view of Renken House. Photo taken facing northwest.

Date taken: June 24, 2011

Photo 3 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_Ellis-RenkenHouse_0003.tif

East side of Renken House. Photo taken facing west.

Date taken: June 1, 2011

Photo 4 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0004.tif

Northeast corner-view of Renken House. Photo taken facing southwest.

Date taken: August 26, 2011

Photo 5 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0005.tif

Northwest corner-view of Renken House showing enclosed back porch. Photo taken facing southeast. (This photo same view as Figure 9).

Date taken: August 29, 2011

Photo 6 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0006.tif

Photo showing c. 1979, non-contributing garage. Photo taken facing northwest.

Date taken: November 4, 2012

Photo 7 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0007.tif

Southeast Parlor. Photo taken facing east.

Date taken: January 19, 2011

Photo 8 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0008.tif

Southwest Parlor. Photo taken facing west.

Date taken: March 16, 2013

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

Photo 9 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0009.tif
Southwest, second-story bedroom. Photo taken facing west.
Date taken: December 26, 2011

Photo 10 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0010.tif
View of historic mudroom turned into half-bath and west side of present-day kitchen. Photo taken facing west.
Date taken: January 19, 2012

Photo 11 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0011.tif
View of historic dining room (currently used as sitting-room). Photo taken facing east across original kitchen from original mudroom.
Date taken: May 15, 2013

Photo 12 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0012.tif
Restored north end of upstairs hallway (after removal of Cramer bathroom addition).
Date taken: March 15, 2013

Photo 13 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0013.tif
Northwest, second-story bedroom. Photo taken facing west.
Date taken: May 22, 2013

Photo 14 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0014.tif
View of historic northeast second-story bedroom (current used as full bath). Photo taken facing east.
Date taken: May 22, 2013

Photo 15 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0015.tif
View of historic northeast second story bedroom (currently used as full bath). Photo taken facing northwest.
Date taken: May 22, 2013

Photo 16 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0016.tif
View of historic northeast second story bedroom (currently used as full bath). Picture showing original closet with doorway widened for double door to accommodate washer and dryer. Interior closet walls are original to house. Photo taken facing southeast.
Date taken: May 22, 2013

RENKEN, RENKE AND WUBKE (FRANCEN),
HOUSE

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA

Name of Property

County and State

Photo 17 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0017.tif

View of northeast corner of Renken House facing west.

Date taken: May 13, 2013

Photo 18 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0018.tif

View of northeast corner of Renken House facing southwest.

Date taken: May 13, 2013

Photo 19 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0019.tif

View of northwest corner of Renken House facing southeast. (Variation of Photo #5 and Figure 9).

Date taken: May 14, 2013

Photo 20 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0020.tif

Front of non-contributing garage. Photo taken facing north.

Date taken: May 13, 2013

Photo 21 of 21: IA_ButlerCounty_RenkenHouse_0021.tif

West side of non-contributing garage. Photo taken facing east.

Date taken: May 21, 2013

Epson PictureMate Photolab – Epson PictureMate Photo Paper

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen),
House

Name of Property
Butler County, Iowa
County and State

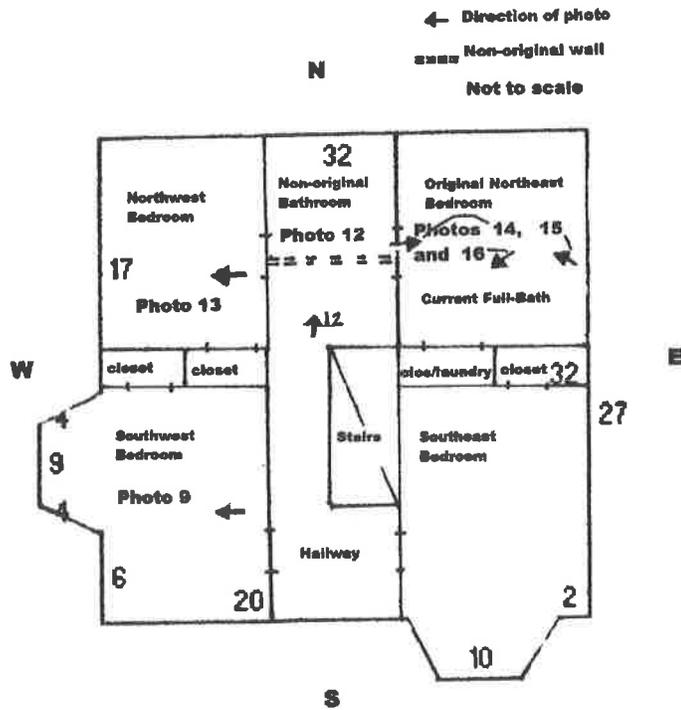
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Imbedded Images Page 29

Figure 2

Floor Plan Sketch Map - Second floor: Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen), House

Information Source: Melodie McLean, owner - March 15, 2013



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen),
House

Name of Property
Butler County, Iowa
County and State

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

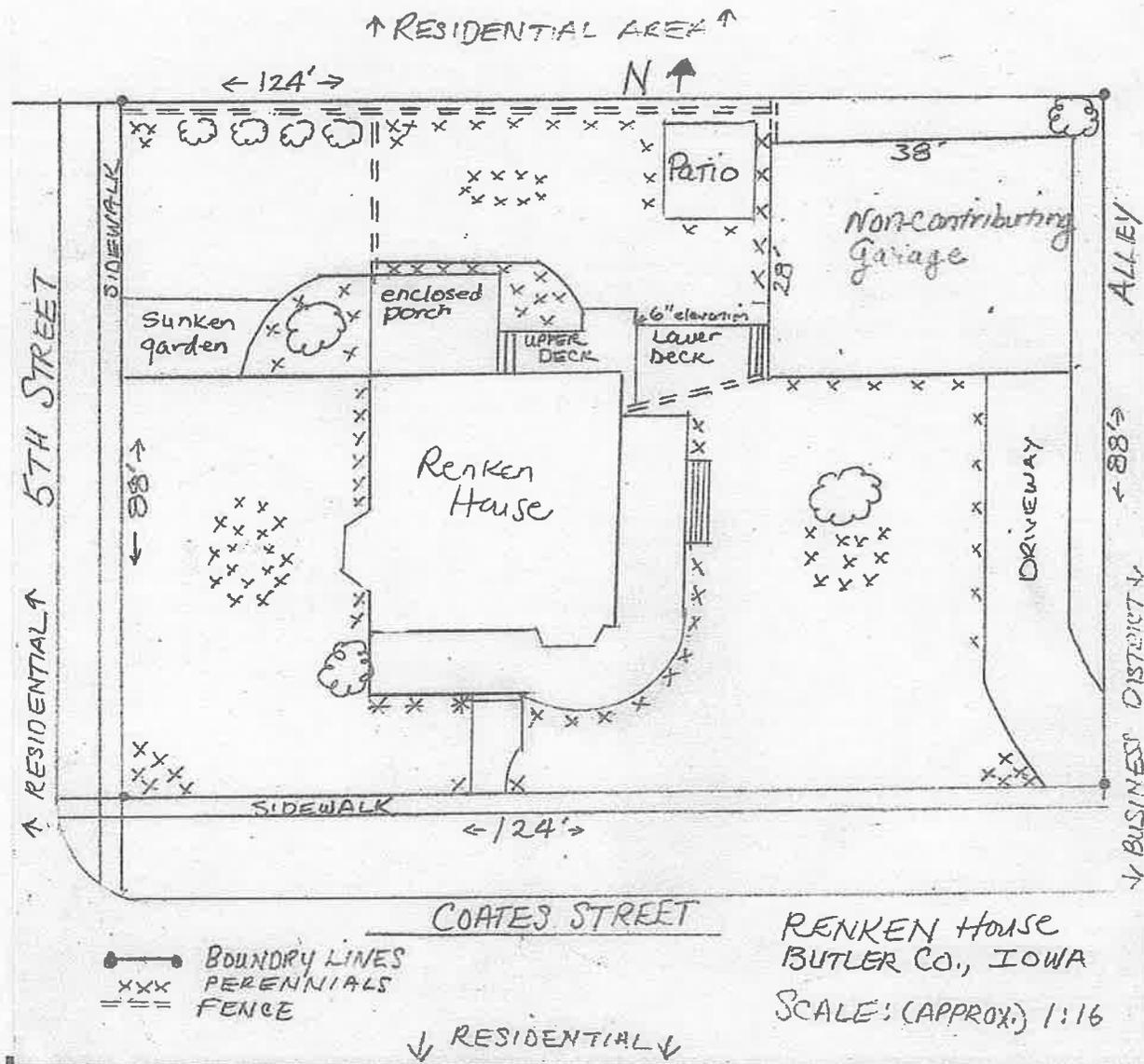
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Imbedded images Page 30

Figure 3

Site Plan Sketch Map: Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen), House

Source: Melodie McLean, owner – March 16, 2013



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen),
House

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Imbedded Images Page 31

Figure 4

Plat Map:

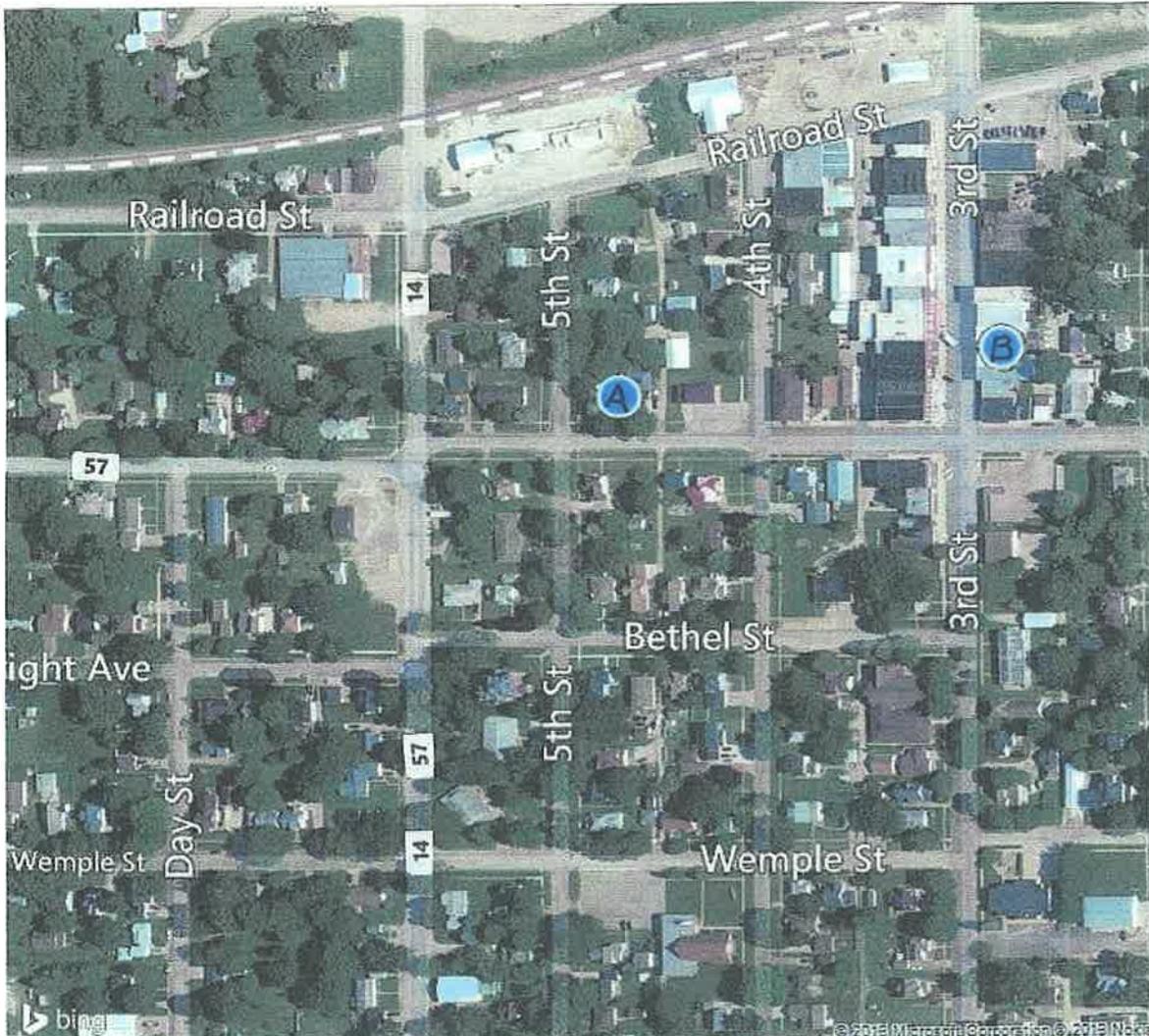
- A. Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen), House

Address: 401 Coates Street, Parkersburg, IA 50665 42.577518, -92.789368

- B. Renken and Tammen Commercial Building

Address: 236 3rd Street, Parkersburg, IA 50665 42.577663, -92.786903

Bing.com/maps Oct. 24, 2013



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

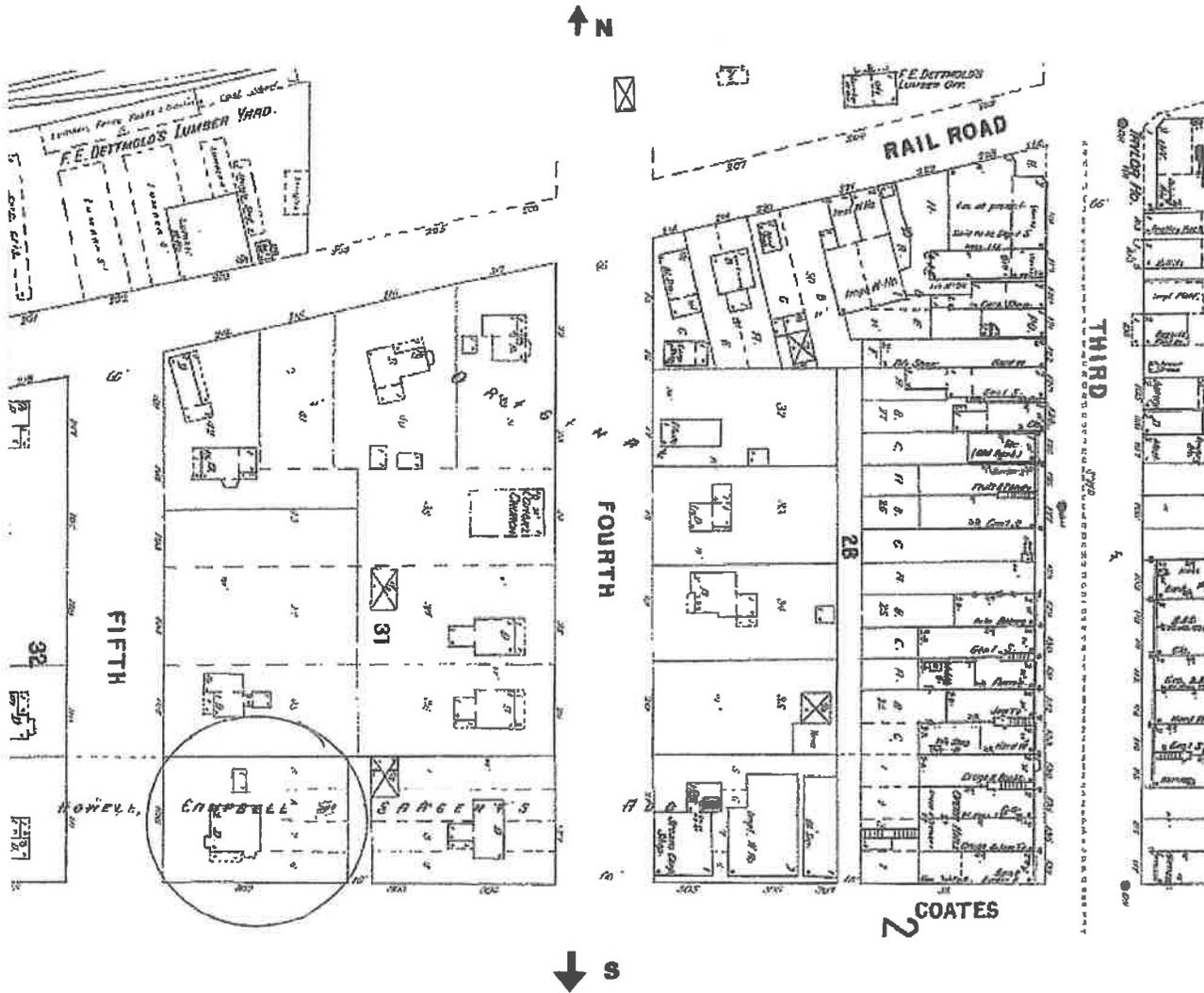
Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen),
House

Name of Property
Butler County, Iowa
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Imbedded Images Page 32

Figure 5
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1896 – Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen), House
Information source: State Library of Iowa - April 29, 2013



SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP 1896
PARKERSBURG, BUTLER CO., IOWA

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

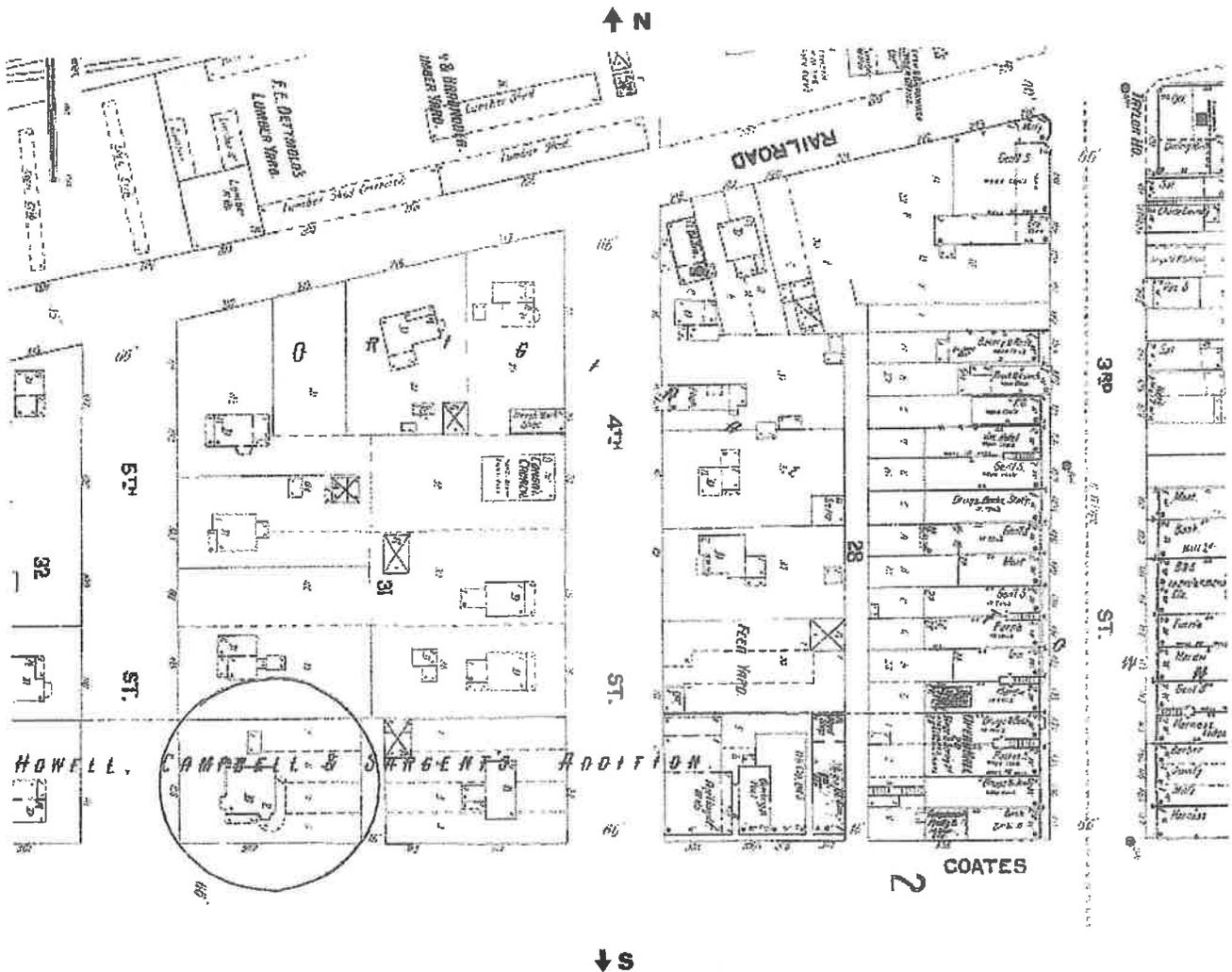
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen), House
Name of Property
Butler County, Iowa
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Imbedded Images Page 33

Figure 6

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1902 – Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen), House
Information Source: State Library of Iowa – April 29, 2013



SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP 1902
PARKERSBURG, BUTLER CO., IOWA

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen),
House

Name of Property
Butler County, Iowa
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Imbedded Images Page 34

Figure 7

Historic photo taken "Summer, 1917," showing southeast view of Renken House.

Photographer unknown. Photo acquired from R. G. Renken's great granddaughter, Amy Buckley, February, 2013. Photo taken facing northwest.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen),
House

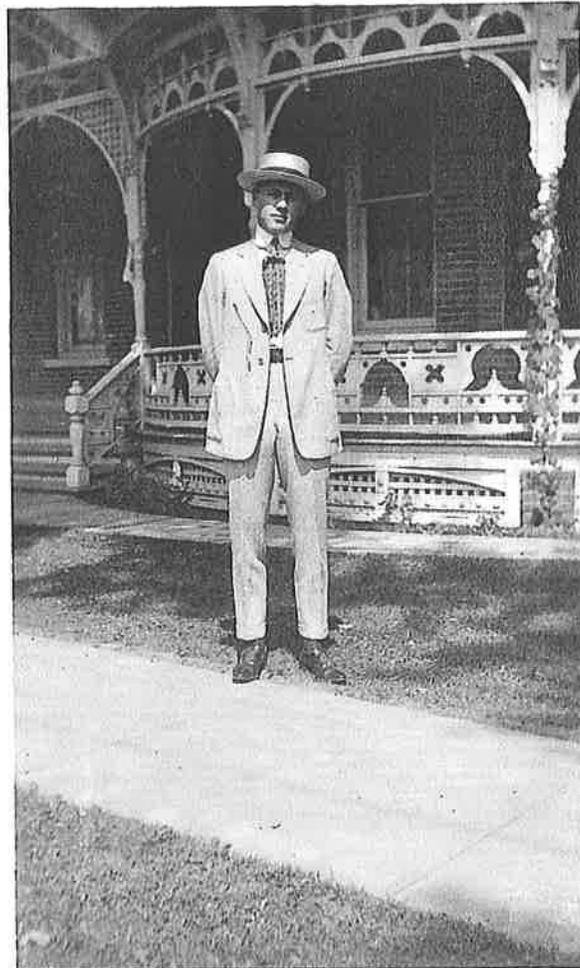
Name of Property
Butler County, Iowa
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Imbedded Images Page 35

Figure 8

Historic photo taken around 1920, showing R. G. Renken standing in front of the Renken House (south side). Photographer unknown. Photo acquired from R.G. Renken's great granddaughter, Amy Buckley, February, 2013. Photo taken facing north.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Renken, Renke and Wubke (Francen),
House

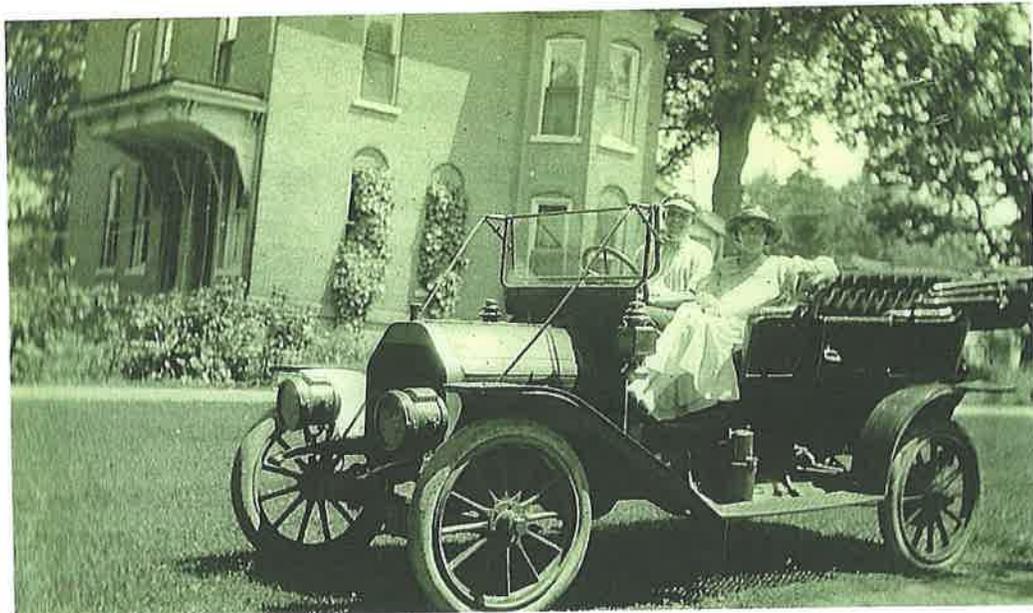
Name of Property
Butler County, Iowa
County and State

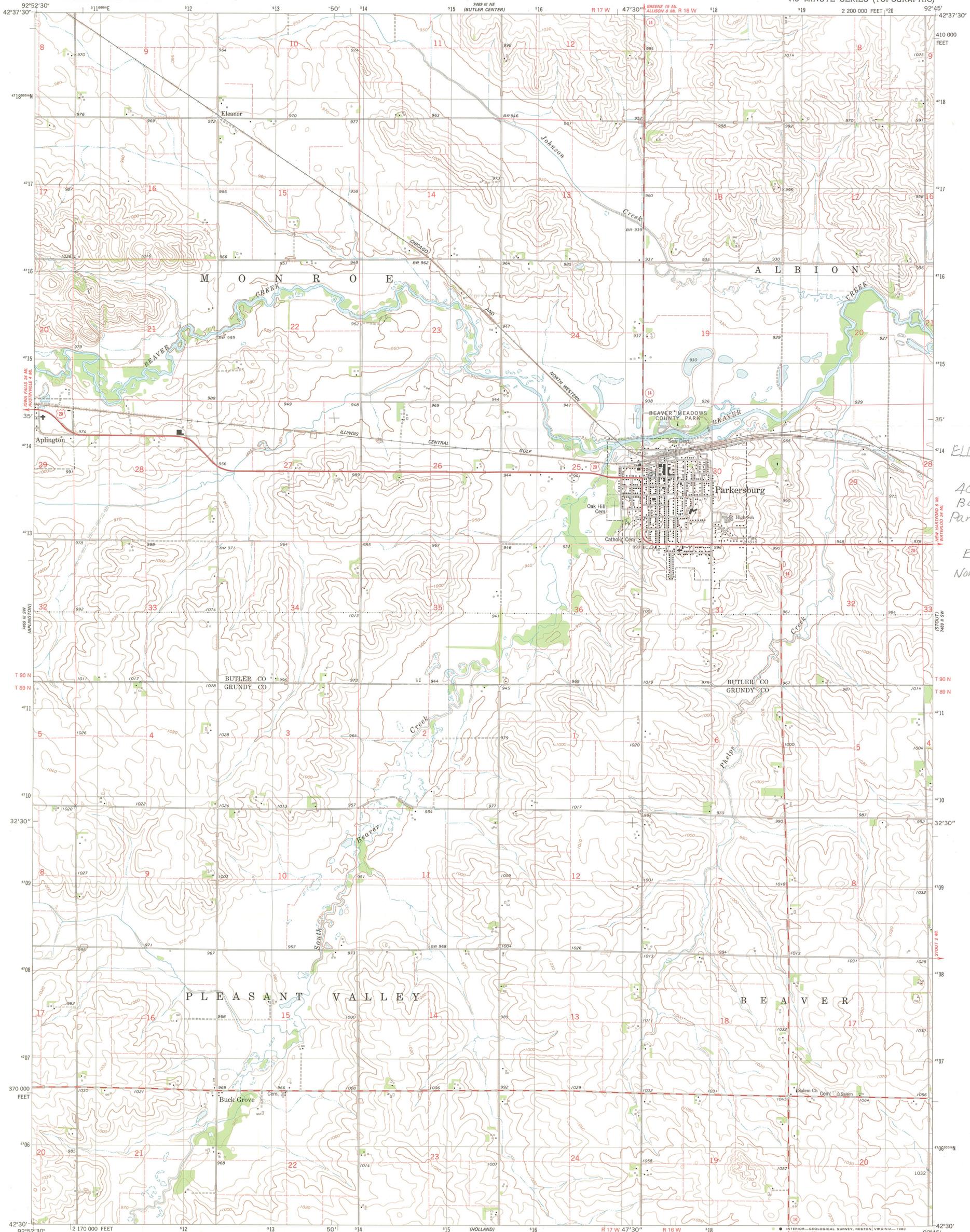
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Imbedded Images Page 36

Figure 9

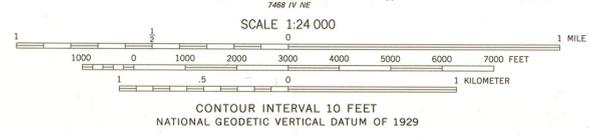
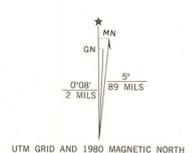
Historic photo taken around 1917, showing northwest view of the Renken House, including original back-porch overhang. Wubke Renken and son, Harry in foreground. Photographer unknown. Photo acquired from R. G. Renken's great granddaughter, Amy Buckley, February, 2013. Photo taken facing southeast.





ELLIS-RENKEN
HOUSE
401 Coates Street
Butler County,
Parkersburg, Iowa
Zone 15
Easting: 517284
Northing: 4713909

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1973. Field checked 1974. Map edited 1980
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Iowa coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 5 meters north and 16 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

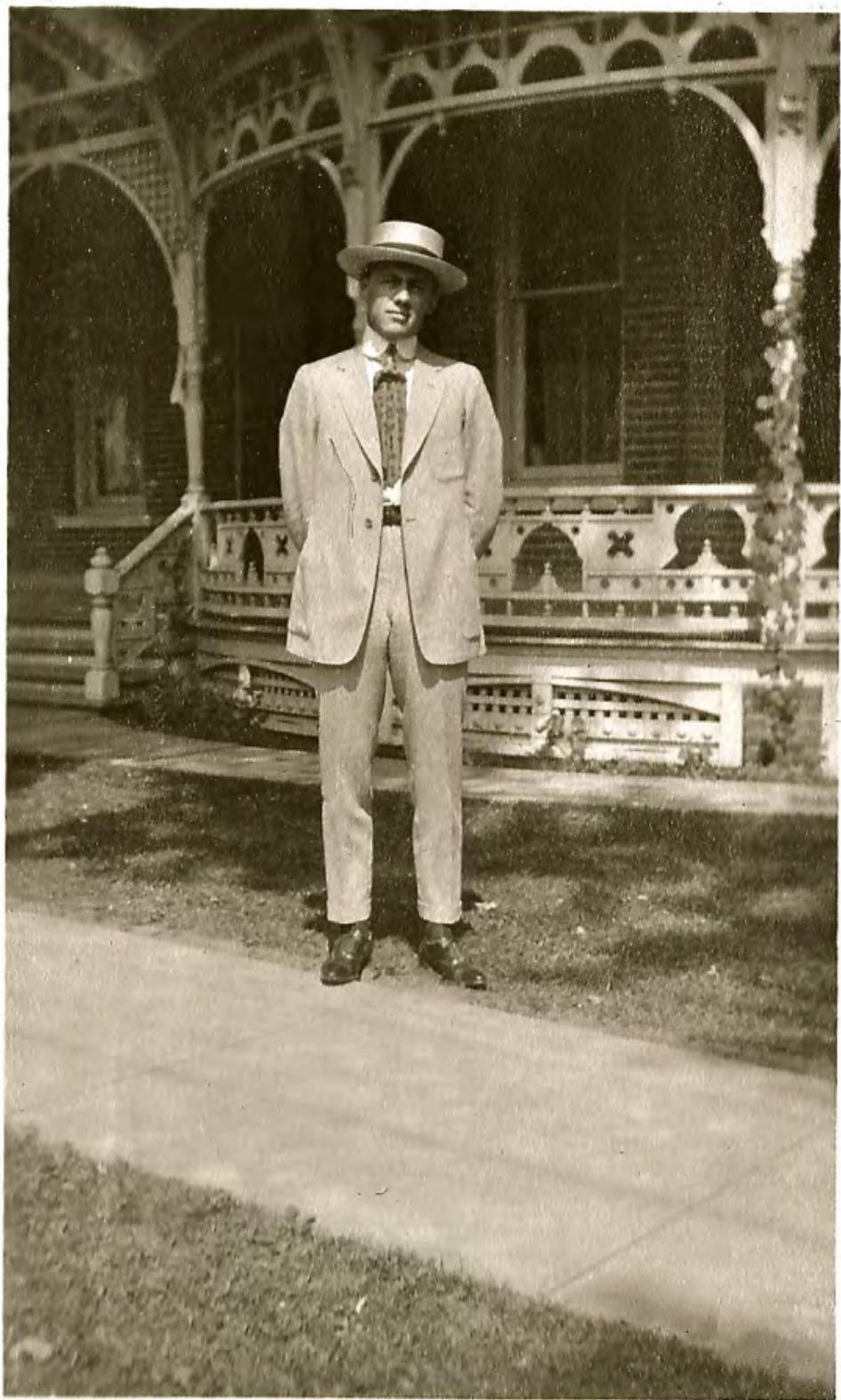
Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

PARKERSBURG, IOWA
N4230-W9245/7.5
1980
DMA 7469 III SE-SERIES V876



Summer
1917







FIFTH ST
COATES ST

























Thou wilt
shew me the path of life.

















